

Higher Education Funding 1990-2002

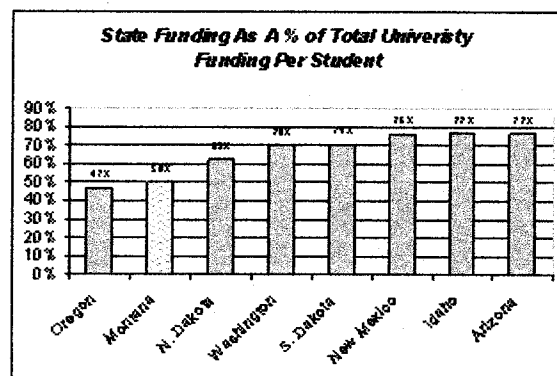
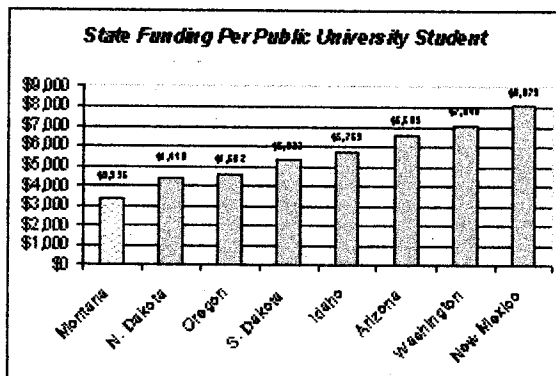
The state's share of funding has dropped dramatically. The state's share of funding for the Montana University System has fallen from 73% to 47% in the past 12 years, while student enrollment and fixed costs have risen. The University System at every level has economized to cover revenue losses and maintain academic excellence. The result: fewer academic options, larger class sizes, and higher faculty workloads.

2003 Legislature cut even more. The 2003 Legislature resulted in \$40 million less than what university officials said was needed to maintain existing programs.

Montana invests far less than peer states. The Montana Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD), in a 2000 study, compared Montana with seven "peer" states that use similar funding mechanisms for higher education.

The study found that of all these states, Montana makes the lowest investment in the per-student cost of higher education. Yet Montana's colleges and universities still must try to make their students competitive in national and international job markets.

Montana state funding per student is \$2,629 (nearly 40%) less than the average of these seven peer states.



How much of the cost of educating a student does Montana's state funding cover? Only 47%. That's about 20% less than the average of our seven peer states.

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Montana

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Public 4-Year Institutions and Private Non-Profit 4-Year Institutions

	Average Debt *	Rank **
Overall Average Debt	\$ 17,314	26
Public Universities	\$ 16,539	24
Private Non-Profit Colleges	\$ 23,937	5

List of Montana Institutions

Public 4-Year Institutions

Montana State University, Billings

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 15,719
Average Debt of Graduates 2001	\$ 16,000
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	68%
Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	2,615
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 4,180
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	39%

Montana State University, Bozeman

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 18,081
Average Debt of Graduates 2001	\$ 9,905
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	66%
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2001	57%
Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	9,284
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 4,146
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	30%

Montana State University, Northern

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 10,601
Average Debt of Graduates 2001	\$ 5,551
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	70%
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2001	69%
Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	1,097

2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 3,808
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	51%

Montana Tech of The University of Montana

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 19,000
Average Debt of Graduates 2001	\$ 11,500
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	75%
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2001	70%
Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	1,533
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 4,172
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	36%

The University of Montana, Missoula

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 15,185
Average Debt of Graduates 2001	\$ 15,611
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	70%
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2001	62%
Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	9,816
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 4,260
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	36%

The University of Montana, Western

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 20,703
Average Debt of Graduates 2001	\$ 20,433
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	84%
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2001	64%
Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	869
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 3,473
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	36%

Private Non-Profit 4-Year Institutions

Carroll College

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 25,659
Average Debt of Graduates 2001	\$ 22,450
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	75%
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2001	71%

Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	1,230
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 14,666
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	26%

Rocky Mountain College

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 20,571
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	87%
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2001	76%
Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	860
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 14,115
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	36%

Salish Kootenai College

Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	623
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 4,569
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	41%

University of Great Falls

Average Debt of Graduates 2005	\$ 26,450
Average Debt of Graduates 2001	\$ 20,470
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2005	83%
Proportion of Graduates w/debt 2001	94%
Full-Time Enrollment Fall 2003	446
2003-04 In-State Tuition	\$ 11,940
2003-04 % Pell Grant Recipients	67%

Notes:

* Debt data as reported by campuses to Thomson Peterson's Undergraduate Financial Aid and Undergraduate Databases. © 2006 Thomson Peterson's, a part of Thomson Learning Inc. All rights reserved.

** State rankings are from 1 (highest average debt) to 50 (lowest average debt), and do not include the District of Columbia.

All data are from four-year institutions only. All available data are shown. Some schools did not report debt data for one or both years. Other data from www.economicdiversity.org.

Calculations by the Project on Student Debt

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